



Task Force for International Cooperation on Holocaust Education, Remembrance, and Research




Plenary Meeting. December 14 - 17, 2008. Vienna



GOBIERNO
DE ESPAÑA



Messages



First of all, I would like to greet the representatives of all the States that are already part of the Task Force for International Cooperation on Holocaust Education, Remembrance, and Research, and those that, as in Spain's case, are in one of the previous phases of the incorporation process.

Today, 17 December, is an important day for Spain, which we hope will culminate the process begun in 2005, becoming a point of departure for a new chapter in our joint efforts to achieve and consolidate the objectives that we all share.

On behalf of the Government of Spain, I would like to express my most sincere thanks to those who were the pioneers in this initiative of creating a single international instrument for raising awareness of the Holocaust, most particularly, Honorary Chairman Yehuda Bauer.

We are now celebrating the first ten years of this initiative's existence, which have blazed a path so that we may also learn the way.

During the first official ceremony in which Spain honoured the victims of the Holocaust, we made very clear, through my own words, the Spanish Government's commitment to joining the ITF.

This took place on 26 January 2006, in the presence of Their Majesties the King and Queen of Spain and the highest national officials, as well as those who made the victims' voices heard—and they were all witnesses to this solemn moment of repaying a debt to memory, and also a debt to history.

And since you are hearing me today in Vienna, while Austria is presiding over the ITF, allow me to repeat to you my own words from that 26 January, referring to the visit which, only a few months before, I had made to Mauthausen, accompanied by the President of Austria.

I said at the time that it was an emotional experience, deeply emotional, for me to participate in the commemoration of the sixtieth anniversary of the liberation of Mauthausen. From my visit to the camp, I retain an indelible memory that will stay with me for the rest of my life. The morning was freezing; yet so benign compared with the icy nights when so many human beings died, naked and frozen. Those of us who were there saw in our

minds' eye the images of those deported in sealed wagons, to be converted first into slaves, and then into ashes...

I grasped then, as now, how when human beings radiate dignity, they can be silenced and stripped of everything, even their very names, marked by stigma, crushed by exhaustion, but never, never, vanquished with their own consent.


Since then, since that first act of remembrance, we have not ceased, for a single day, to work systematically in accordance with the guidelines marked by the Stockholm Declaration, creating one by one the appropriate instruments and multidisciplinary work spaces necessary in order to move forward with our objective, as part of a State policy, of resituating the Shoah within the consciousness of Spain's citizens today and, above all, within the collective memory of our young people, as part of a shared European memory.

These efforts, this commitment on the part of the Government of Spain, take on their full significance today, on the day that we are presenting Spain's candidacy to attain the status of full Member of this prestigious organization.

Thank you very much.



José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero
President of the Government



Ladies and gentlemen; members of the Task Force for International Cooperation on Holocaust Education, Remembrance and Research, I congratulate you for your work and your ongoing commitment to the noble cause of memory, and for your contribution to ensuring that nothing like the the Holocaust ever happens again. Thank you for this work, and for allowing me to be present, albeit electronically, at this plenary session and to convey to you Spain's engagement with the Shoah.

Four years ago, 27 January was established in Spain as the Day of Holocaust Remembrance and Prevention of Crimes against Humanity. Thus, we came to form part of the tribute to this memory, and the defence of human rights as a preeminent value in the international community. In 2005, Spain attended a plenary session of the Task Force for International Holocaust Education, Remembrance and Research (ITF) for the first time, as a guest country. Not long afterwards, a working group was constituted involving several Ministries of the Spanish Government, whose representatives are members of the Spanish Delegation at this forum.

This group has promoted and coordinated the Government's policies within the framework of our process of integration into the ITF, and defined the guidelines for our commemoration of Holocaust Remembrance Day in Spain. One of the highlights of the commemorative activities programme is an official ceremony, which has been repeated year after year, giving symbolic weight to the event.


In 2006, the central idea of the ceremony, with the presence of Their Majesties the King and Queen and the President of the Government, was to highlight the date's status as a national commemoration. In 2007, it was focused on reweaving our Jewish memories, and a major delegation of survivors from the Judeo-Spanish diaspora was invited. In 2008, the accent was laid on Spain's commitment to the European memory of the Shoah and its transmission to future generations. The ceremony featured the participation of Josep Borrell, a former Spanish President of the European Parliament, along with nearly 300 young people from Spanish and European schools in Madrid. Precisely on that occasion, during my speech, I expressly mentioned Spain's ITF incorporation process, which I hope culminates during the present Plenary Session.

I would like to thank you all for your constant support and collaboration during this process, and very especially, France and Israel, which have sponsored our candidacy. And I also extend my gratitude to our Argentine friends, who have always supported Spain in this respect, and with whom we shall continue to work in the future, joined by our common language and shared memories. I would like to express my most sincere thanks to the successive Presidencies, which have accompanied us on this journey and encouraged Spain to present its candidacy to join this organization, on such a significant occasion as the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Thank you very much.



Miguel Angel Moratinos
Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation



As Spain's Minister of Justice, I would like to point out the aims that inspire the Task Force for International Cooperation on Holocaust Education, Remembrance and Research, all of them contained in the so-called "Stockholm Declaration" of year 2000 and which this Minister shares completely.

As it is stated in this Declaration, the international community shares the solemn responsibility of fighting genocide, ethnic cleansing, racism, anti-Semitism and xenophobia, and of doing so from the commitment –which this Government has always undertaken– to ensuring that the rising generation can know and understand the causes of the Holocaust and reflect on its consequences.

It is my understanding that to achieve these objectives it is necessary to work in the field of prevention, in order to avoid any attempt at trivialization which might lead to citizens' or governments' indifference or passivity. Passivity which was cause or effect in the Holocaust origin and development and which remains in many of the crimes against humanity that are taking place today as well in the world.


I think, therefore, that it is essential to fulfil the first duty set out for us by the above mentioned Stockholm Declaration, which result in the duty to honour the memory of the millions of victims who perished, or whose lives were scarred for ever due to the Holocaust. I'd like to stress that, with this aim, the Government adopted, in 2004, the decision to establish 27 of January as Official Day of Holocaust Remembrance and Prevention of Crimes against Humanity, making it clear, by doing so, our commitment to the victims.

Because we are committed to justice and willing not to remain silent in front of any outbreak of intolerance, discrimination, racism or xenophobia, nor in front of any other form of violation of human rights, I think that instruments such as the International Task Force prove to be essential for the achievement of these aims. And I am delighted that Spain has decided to become a member of it.

Thank you very much.



Mariano Fernández Bermejo
Minister of Justice



In January 2007, I attended for the first time the institutional ceremony commemorating the official Day of Holocaust Remembrance. On that occasion, I said that it was every educator's duty to preserve and teach the memory of the Holocaust and, as a result, the Spanish Government introduced into our educational system's curriculum a specific topic devoted to the memory of the Holocaust, using a multi-disciplinary approach.

I believe it is the obligation of all those of us with educational responsibilities to teach the young about the memory of the Holocaust, the memory of those who suffered the loss of democracy. We must teach our young people that democracy is not a system that comes as a given; rather, it is an achievement of all citizens. I also believe that educators are obliged to prevent future situations that could lead to a loss of democracy and a situation of total loss of human rights, as was the Holocaust.

Nobel Laureate Elie Wiesel said that a memorial unresponsive to the future would violate the memory of the past. I believe this is a lesson that we should all learn and include in our teachings to the younger generations.



Mercedes Cabrera
Minister of Education, Social Policy and Sports



Holocaust teaching-workshop on support materials



Madrid

25-27 September, 2008

Programme

Thursday, September 25

17:00 Opening session

- Fernando Magro, Secretary General of Instituto Cervantes
- Ángel Vázquez, Secretary General of Casa Sefarad-Israel
- Jacobo Israel, President of the Federation of Jewish Communities of Spain
- Javier Vidal, Director General for Evaluation and Education System Planning (Ministry of Education, Social Policy and Sport)
- Ana Sálomon, Ambassador at Large for the Relations with Jewish Community and Organizations (Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation)

Opening lecture

- José Antonio Marina, PhD in philosophy and writer (Spain):
"Knowing history for educating in values"

18:30 Break

19:00 Testimony

- Manuel Reyes Mate, Research Professor (CSIC - Spain). Introduction:
"Reflections on the use of testimonies in the classroom"
- Henri Borlant, Holocaust survivor (France)

Friday, September 26

16:00 Welcome speech. Pablo Martín Aceña, Deputy Director Residencia de Estudiantes.
Presentation of teaching support materials and pedagogical approaches-Mémorial de la Shoah

- Claude Singer, Mémorial de la Shoah
- Iannis Roder, Mémorial de la Shoah

Break

Presentation of teaching support materials and pedagogical approaches-Yad Vashem

- Mario Sinay, Yad Vashem

Break

19:30 Presentation of teaching support materials and pedagogical approaches
Other institutions and organizations from ITF member countries

- House of the Wannsee Conference (Germany). Elke Grygliewski
- Anne Frank House (Netherlands). Karen Polak
- Holocaust Museum Houston (USA). Natalie Herzog
- Maison d'Izieu (France). Jean-François Forges
- Holocaust Educational Trust (Ireland). Laura Nagle

Saturday, September 27

10:00 Presentation of pedagogical materials and experiences in Spain

- Grupo Turkana (Madrid)
- Grupo Eleuterio Quintanilla (Asturias, Gijón)
- Escuela Espacio de Paz (Andalusia, Almería)
- Grupo Zivia Lubetkin (Asturias, Oviedo)
- Grupo Henek (Aragon, Zaragoza)
- Asociación de Mujeres Gitanas Romí (Andalusia, Granada)
- Liceo Francés (Madrid)
- Jewish School Ibn Gabirol (Madrid)
- Amical de Mauthausen (Catalonia, Barcelona)

14:30 Conclusions

- *Pedagogical materials for Holocaust teaching were displayed September 26-27.*

- *140 participants -most of them teachers- attended the workshop, coming from various autonomous regions: Andalusia, Catalonia, Castilla-La Mancha, Castilla-León, Extremadura, Galicia, Asturias and Murcia.*



Spain membership application in figures



19

Seminars, conferences and workshops in Spain (since 2005)

9 Of which teacher training seminars

1066

Participants

470 Of which teachers

9

Seminars, conferences and workshops abroad (since 2005)

8 Of which teacher training seminars

179

Spanish participants

167 In Israel (Yad Vashem)

3 In France (Mémorial de la Shoah)

6 In France/Poland (Mémorial de la Shoah, Fondation
Mémoire de la Shoah, Memorial Auschwitz-Birkenau-
State Museum, Lycée Français of Madrid)

2 In Argentina (Argentinean Delegation to the ITF)

1 In U.S.A. (Holocaust Museum Houston)

• Besides seminars, conferences and workshops, other teacher-training activities have been organized on a regular basis, mainly working meetings of the Permanent Seminar (“Core group”: 30 members; “extended meeting”: 70 members), established by the Spanish ITF Interministerial Working Group in 2005 (see details in the Spain Membership Application - Baseline Study).

• In schools, many extra-curricular activities are already taking place, mainly visits/lectures of Holocaust survivors and Holocaust-related exhibitions.



Spain
membership
application
in pictures



Holocaust Remembrance Day ceremony (26 January, 2006)



Audience granted by Their Majesties the King and the Queen of Spain to Holocaust survivors (24 January, 2007)



Holocaust Remembrance Day ceremony (24 January, 2007)



Spanish teachers in Yad Vashem (August 2007)



"Visas for Freedom" exhibition (Oviedo, October 2007)



Yad Vashem receives Prince of Asturias Award for Concord (26 October 2007)

Training seminar
(Oviedo, October
2007)



Concert in honour
of Primo Levy
(4 December
2007)



Film Season on
the Holocaust
(January 2008)



Presentation of "Auschwitz, the Photo Album of Tragedy"
(January 2008)



Holocaust Remembrance Day.
Regional Parliament of Madrid
(24 January, 2008)



Holocaust Remem-
brance Day ceremony
(24 January 2008)



Holocaust Remembrance Day ceremony (24 January 2008)



Holocaust Remembrance Day. City Council of Madrid (27 January, 2008)



Holocaust Remembrance Day. "Congreso de los Diputados". Spanish Parliament (28 January 2008)



Seminar "Nuremberg, from the abyss to the rebirth of Law" (29-30 January 2008).



Concert: "The Pentagrams of the Holocaust: The Music Resounds (30 January 2008)



Exhibition:
"Visas for
Freedom"
(January
2008)



Visit of the
French Dele-
gation to the
ITF - Mee-
ting with the
"Permanent
Seminar" (22
May, 2008)



Seminar "The Holocaust, historical aspects" (Toledo, 20-22 June, 2008)



Spanish teachers in Yad Vashem (August 2008)



Holocaust teaching - Workshop on Support Materials (25-27 September, 2008)





Holocaust teaching – Workshop on Support Materials (25-27 September, 2008)



First Anne Frank Stories Award (10 November 2008)

